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CURRENT LITERATURE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Alaskan cryptogams.

The fifth volume of the series presenting the scientific results of the Harriman Alaskan Expedition is devoted to papers on cryptogams. It has been prepared under the general direction of Dr. William Trelease, who distributed the material to specialists and writes an interesting introduction to the volume. Dr. Trelease also shares with P. A. Saccardo and C. H. Peck in the section on fungi; the lichens are treated by Miss Clara E. Cummings, with admirably simple keys; the algae by DeAlton Saunders; mosses by J. Cardot and I. Thériot; sphagnums by C. Warnstorf, whose determinations have been edited by Trelease; the liverworts by A. W. Evans; and the pteridophytes by William Trelease.

Three of these papers, those on algae, mosses, liverworts, have already been printed in the *Proceedings* of the Washington Academy of Sciences. In this volume they are reprinted from the same electrotype plates, even to typographical errors. The utmost care has been taken to preserve the original pagination and plate numbers, so that from this volume the original publication may be quoted—a bibliographical precaution which deserves thankful recognition. It would be impossible to praise too highly the typographical elegance and beauty of this volume. No detail has been overlooked. Paper, letter-press, plates, and binding combine to make it an example of the best work of American book-makers.

And the contents, judging by the reputation of the authors of the various papers, is worthy of the perfect dress. About 75 species and 35 subspecies and varieties are described as new. Many are illustrated upon the 44 plates, of which those for fungi are colored. The clever and artistic head pieces were designed by Mr. F. A. Walpole, whose recent untimely death robs the Department of Agriculture of its most skilful botanical artist.

The phanerogams are to be presented in two volumes, under the editorship of Mr. F. V. Coville, which are announced for the present year.

Mr. Harriman deserves the cordial thanks of naturalists, not only for the expedition itself which extended so much the knowledge of the Alaskan region, but also for the sumptuous style in which he makes it possible for the results to be presented.—C. R. B.

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^I J. CARDOT, CLARA E. CUMMINGS, ALEXANDER W. EVANS, C. H. PECK, P. A. SACCARDO, DEALTON SAUNDERS, I. THÉRIOT, AND WILLIAM TRELEASE, Alaska. Vol. V. Cryptogamic botany. Harriman Alaska Expedition, With cooperation of Washington Academy of Sciences. Imp 8vo. pp. x+424. pls. 43. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. 1904. \$5.00.